

North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at North Rigton School

8th January 2014

1. Attendance and Welcome; consideration of any Apologies for Absence.

Present:- Councillors Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Andrew Batcup (Vice Chairman), Amanda Martyn, Barbara Massey, Jo Scott, Tim Bennett & Mike Richards (Clerk). In attendance, County Councillor John Fort and District Councillor Christine Ryder.

1.1 Apologies for Absence – None

2. Approval and signing of Minutes; Matters arising

Minutes of the meeting of 13 November 2013 were considered.

2.1.1 Follow up on Chairman's Report:-HGVs – NYCC Trading Standards had agreed to follow up and issue warnings to offending vehicle owners, but as yet Chairman has not been informed of any such action. She will inform councillors when any communication received. Councillor Fort did confirm that he was aware that Trading Standards were carrying out observations in the village, so hopefully some progress is being made.

2.1.2 Cold calling. Trading Standards have confirmed that residents can be supplied with appropriate telephone numbers to call if there are concerns about cold callers. These numbers will be promulgated in a future edition of the Parish News. The Parish Council will also obtain a supply of stickers for display in residents' homes warning against cold callers.

2.1.3 Litter bins. Councillor Ryder had arranged for the provision of 5 additional bins as promised and she would also confirm fixing arrangements. Locations of the extra bins still to be decided, but one would definitely be located outside the school. (but see 9.3 below)

Other matters arising:-

2.2.1 Community Care. Chairman and Mrs D Birtwistle had approached the Square and Compass over the possibility of holding "tea and scones" afternoon sessions. This had been agreed in principle and councillors agreed with Councillor Fort's suggestion that the Parish Council could donate a sum of £50 to kick start the scheme. Chairman and Mrs Birtwistle would take this further.

2.2.2 Bank Mandate. Councillors Scott and Bennett were still to provide the Bank's required documentation. Both confirmed this would be done as soon as possible.

There being no other amendments or comments, the minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman.

3. Requests for further order variations and Declaration of Interest – None.

4. Administration.

4.1 HBC's Core Strategy Review. Chairman introduced this topic, spending some time to explain the A, B and C categories describing villages and communities within the strategy, and how the categories were determined. One of the important features of these different categories is the ability to allow new development to take place. North Rigton falls outside these categories and therefore no new developments can take place. Chairman expressed her concern over the medium to long term future of the village and its school, should there be no influx of young families into the community, given the current nature and high cost of existing houses. Long discussion followed and councillors agreed to keep this issue on the agenda for future meetings. In the meantime, Chairman and Councillor Batcup would meet to formulate and agreed Council response for submission to the Strategy Review.

4.2 Crime Statistics – 2013. PC Ayre forwarded the figures below, for information.

Offence	No. reported	Detected
Burglary – other	4	0
Harassment	1	1
Malicious communication	1	1
Theft from vehicles	2	0
Theft	1	0
Totals	9	2

Councillors noted the above and expressed satisfaction at the reduced level from the previous year.

5. Finance.

5.1 Receipts and Accounts payable.

S. Keane - £1072 iro contractual payment for grounds and gardens maintenance etc.

Agreed for payment.

5.2 Annual precept for 2014-15. Clerk confirmed that he had submitted the request to HBC for £6800, as authorised by Councillors, representing again a zero increase on the previous year. This would be reported in the Parish News.

6. Parish Plan

6.1 Community Room. Further discussions had taken place involving the Rector and the Diocesan Advisory Committee and there had been a favourable response. The Chairman posed the question as to whether the Parish Council should continue to be involved or should it now be a matter for the Church and Villagers Association. Councillor Batcup was of the opinion that the PC should be involved, to ensure progress is made, particularly as there is a strong possibility of significant grant aid from either the Church Association or a charitable organisation, such as the Lottery.

6.2 Carol singing – Councillor Bennett reported on a very successful event, with over 30 people taking part, raising some £250 for the 2 hospices nominated. He envisaged even greater success next Christmas.

6.3 Other. Councillor Batcup passed round a communication from Oswaldkirk parish, showing details of its “village walk”. He volunteered to start the North Rigton village walk in May, then asking for other volunteers to arrange subsequent ventures throughout summer. It was thought each walk would be of 2 1/2 to 3 hours duration. Councillors welcomed this proposal.

7. Planning

Current issues.

7.1 Tatefield Farm – planning application approved despite PC objection. Councillor Ryder thought however, that this had had pre-approval. She would check and notify accordingly.

7.2 Cardale Park development – revised access road, application for approval. No objections as such from North Rigton, but the agreed response (as already submitted) on the scheme as a whole to be resubmitted by the Clerk.

8. Highways, Footpaths and Verges

8.1 Cardale Park development. Report received of NYCC meeting, which again set out all the errors and misconceptions of previous findings. Councillor Batcup presented his analysis of traffic hazards and dangers of roads approaching the village which could be made worse by increased traffic flows arising from the development. Following discussion it was agreed that he would draft a letter to be submitted to the Harrogate Advertiser, following prior approval by all councillors.

8.2 Potholes and verges. NYCC Highways have taken some action on latest deteriorations on High Moor Road and Church Hill, but this and other areas need to be kept under review. Councillors are asked to bring to the attention of the Chairman or Clerk any other problem areas they may become aware of.

8.3 Snow clearance. Should significant problems occur, we are able to contact the contractor responsible, but due to the system of job number allocations (by HBC) we will not be able to gain any priority over the regular run

9. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities.

9.1 Litter pick – all arrangements made and equipment etc made available. Note to be inserted in Parish News.

9.2 Party in the Garden. All jobs and responsibilities now allocated. Chairman somewhat concerned over lack of new blood as same people seem to do all the work each year .More people need to get involved, volunteers need to be sought!

Mrs Erica Hill has agreed to run a competition “Decorate and Display a Bicycle” for the “Tour de France” and Councillors Fort and Ryder agreed to act as judges. (Sunday 8 June). Chairman agreed to purchase a 1st Aid kit.

9.3 Litter bins – suggested locations:-

- outside school
- village garden
- Church Hill
- Crag Lane
- Brackenwell Lane

Councillors agreed to these locations.

9.4 Parish website – request for advertising. After discussion it was agreed that this request be refused as it was not felt appropriate for any commercial advertising to appear on the Council’s website. Clerk to write to the applicant to this effect.

9.5 Jubilee bench. Andrew Keane, who would normally be contracted to complete the installation of the bench, is unable to do so until Spring, due to a medical condition. Councillors agreed that this is acceptable and Andrew would be asked to install the bench when fit to do so.

9.6 Bulbs. A local business man has made available a large quantity of flower bulbs (“as many as we would like”). Does the Council wish to take up this offer? After discussion, it was agreed to accept but with the suggestion that we work with the school as a Community project. Chairman agreed to discuss this with the school.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Verbal communication received by Chairman about a problem with outside lighting to the church from the Lytch gate. As the Parish Council had been directly involved with the funding for this project, via commuted sums, the Clerk will write to the church officers involved to ascertain the true picture.

10.2 Councillor Fort informed the Council of meetings to be held at County Hall over the future of School transport. Details to be inserted in Parish News.

11. Dates of next Meetings:-

Wednesday 5 March 2014

Wednesday 7 May 2014

Meeting closed at 21.57 hrs.